



By the King.

A Proclamation and Declaration to inform Our loving Subjects of Our Kingdom of England of the seditious practices of some in Scotland, seeking to overthrow Our Regall Power under false pretences of Religion.



Hereas We have endeavoured now for a long time together by all calm and fair wayes to appease the disorders and tumultuous carriages caused by some evill affected persons in Our Realm of Scotland, but hitherto all in vain, we have now thought it not onely fit, but necessary in generall to inform all Our loving Subjects in this Our Realm of England, what the truth is of Our proceedings, what Our lenitie and gentlenesse hath been towards them, and what froward and perverſe returns they have made to Us, notwithstanding all their specious pretences, the better to insinuate themselves and their Odious cause into the minds of Our loyall Subjects here. These disorders and tumults have been thus raised in Scotland, and fomented by factious spirits, and those Traiterously affected, begun upon pretences of Religion, the common cloak for all disobedience; but now it clearly appears, the aim of these Men is not Religion (as they falsely pretend and publish) but it is to shake off all Monarchicall government, and to vilifie Our Regall power justly descended upon Us over them: Nay their malice reaches so farre, both against Our Power and Person, as that in a most cunning and subtil way they have endeavoured to poison the hearts of Our good and loyall Subjects of this Our Kingdom, and to seduce them (were it in their power) to the like Rebellious courses with themselves: Now though we are most confident of Our peoples affections towards Us (of which they have given Us clear testimony by their ready and cheerfull Assistance in this cause) and have not the least thought that those turbulent spirits shall any way prevail with them, yet we cannot but hold it requisite to give them timely notice of their Traiterous intentions, which very many wayes appears unto Us.

As first, By the multitude of their printed Pamphlets, or rather indeed infamous Libels, stuffed full of calumnies against Our Regall Authority, and Our most just proceedings, and spreading of them in divers parts of this Our Kingdom.

Secondly, By their sending of Letters to private persons, to incite them against Us, and sending of some of their fellow-Covenanters to be at private meetings in London, and elsewhere, to pervert Our good people from their duty; and some of these meetings we know, and some of those Letters (lewd enough) we have seen.

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Thirdly, By their publike contemning of all Our just Commands, and their mutinous protesting against them, a course not fit to be endured in any well ordered Kingdom.

Fourthly, By their rejecting of the Covenant commanded by Our authority, because it was commanded by Us, whereas no Covenant or Band of that nature in that Kingdom hath ever been or can be legall and warrantable, which hath not been commanded, or at least assented unto by Royall authority: As for instance, That Covenant in Our dear Fathers time was condescended unto by Him, and so the Subject (at the humble Petition of the generall Assembly it self) permitted by Him to signe it. We say it again, That Our Covenant was rejected by them, because commanded by Us; And this is manifest, because for matters of Religion Ours agreed in all things with their own Covenant: By which Covenant of theirs, they have Treacherously induced many of Our people to swear to a Band against Us; which Band and Covenant (or rather Conspiracy) of theirs, could not be with God, being against Us the Lords anointed over them: But it was and is a Band and Covenant pretended to be with God, that they may with the better countenance do the works of the devill; such as all Treasons and Rebellions are.

And lastly, By their most hostile preparations in all kindes, as if we were not their King, but their sworn Enemy: For what can their intentions be, being thus prepared, but to invade this Kingdom, should they not finde Us ready, both to resist their force and to curbe their insolencies: For many, and some of the chiefest amongst them, are men, not onely of unquiet spirits, but of broken fortunes, and would be very glad of any occasion (especially under the colour of Religion) to make them whole upon the Lands and Goods of Our Subjects in England, who we presume (besides their allegiance to Us) will look better to themselves & their estates, then to share them with such desperate Hypocrites, who seek to be better, and cannot well be worse. We demand again, what intentions else they can have; for we have already often assured them by Our published Proclamations, that we are so far from thinking of any Innovation or Alteration of Religion, that we are resolved to maintain the same Constantly, and as it is established by Law in that Our Kingdom; Nay, so desirous have we been to give content unto them, as that we have in a manner condescended to all which they petitioned for; Nay, Our Princely Clemency in these produced no better effect, then increasing and daring Insolencies, to Our dishonour both at home and abroad: Yet we passed by all till they struck at the very Root of Kingly government; for they have now assumed to themselves Regall power; for whereas the Print is the Kings in all Kingdoms, these seditious men have taken upon them to Print what they please, though we forbid it, and to prohibit what they dislike, though we command it; and with the greater affront have forbid and dismist the Printer whom we established: Besides, they have taken upon them to Convene Our Subjects, raise Armies, block up and besiege Our Castles, to lay Impositions and Taxes upon Our people, threatening such as continue in loyalty to Us, with force and violence. To this we shall adde that they have sleighted the directions and power of Our Councell Table in that Kingdom, and have set up Tables of their own, at which, some of their Leaders sit under the name of Committees from the late pretended generall Assembly or their Deputies. And thus they meet when and where they please, Treat and Conclude what they please, and send their Edicts thow all parts of the Kingdom without any consent, nay without all knowledge of Us, Our Com-

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Here therefore we take God and the world to witnesse, we hold Our self forced and constrained to Arm, not onely to reclaim them, and to set our kingly authority right again in that Our ancient and native Kingdom, but also for the safety of this Kingdom, Our loyall Subjects in it, with their wives, children, and goods, as well as Our own, against the rage and fury of these men and their Covenant. And this we think fit to let you further know, that we hope in time to make the best of them see that we will endure no such Covenant and Band in Our Kingdom, to which we shall not consent: So the question is not now, whether a Service Book to be received or not; nor whether Episcopall government shall be continued, or Presbyterianall admitted, but whether we are their King or not: For though in some of their Libels they give Us good words, and speak Us fair for their own ends, especially in their last, Printed at Edenburgh, February quarto 1639. yet some of them refuse both the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy, and publicly maintain that they are not obliged to take the same. Now how can we think these men are dutifull and loyall in their hearts, that broach such dangerous Opinions, or Religiously minded that teach such Rebellious Doctrine, and so contrary to all which Protestant Divines teach towards the King and the Civill Magistrate: Nay, they have infected divers of their Country-men (which are come into other parts) with the same venom; for these Scots-men taken in Wales, are at this day Imprisoned for direct denyall of Our Supremacie and their Allegiance, saying, They cannot take those Oathes, because they have sworn to the Covenant. But though we have been thus milde towards them, and continued so long, yet we would not have any of them, or any of Our other Subjects think, that we can or will permit Episcopall Government, established by many Acts of Parliament in that Our Kingdom, to be abolished, seeing it is known to the whole Christian world, that the same is most Christian in it self, and most Peaceable for the Civill State, and most consonant to Monarchicall Government.

And we would have Our Subjects of that Kingdome consider, what will become of the third Estate there in Parliament, if Episcopacie should be abrogated.

And further, we think fit to Declare unto you, and to the Christian world, That by Our Intention of introducing the Service-Book into that Kingdome, we had not the least thought of Innovation of Religion in this or that, but merely to have a Conformity with that worship of God which is obserbed within both Our other Kingdomes, though all minded men have wrested some things in it to a sinister sence.

We further give you to understand, that there is a large Declaration coming forth, containing all the particular passages which have occurred in this businesse from the very beginning, attested with their own foul Acts, to disanull and shame their fair, but false words. But because this cannot so soon be made ready, we hold it most expedient to let this short Declaration forerun it, that Our loyall Subjects here and elsewhere, may not be infected with their false, wicked, specious, but most Seditious Informations. For example sake in their last Pamphlet (besides divers other false, base, and fawning passages) there are these scandalous and most notorious untruths: As first they say That we have committ

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And further they say, That they intend no Act of Hostility against England, unlesse they shall be necessitated in their own defence. we would fain know, defence of what: Is it of disobedience: Defence against whom: Is it not against Us their True and Lawfull Sovereign: If they will defend against Us, it ought to be by Law, and not by Arms: That Defence we shall never deny them: This by Arms we shall never permit them. Now Our Laws which they seem so much to value, are in a manner oppress by them, in so much that Our Judges are so awed, as that they dare hardly proceed according to Law.

With these, and the like mutinous Libels, we desire Our good Subjects should not be infected, but that all of them might know the present necessity we have to Arm Our Self, which we do for no other end, save onely for the safety and security of this Our Kingdom, the reestablishment of Our Authorities in that, and the suppressing of such as have misled and abused Our Subjects there, and would (if not prevented) do the like yet; but is no way to enforce any Innovation of Religion established in that Kingdom, or any wayes to infringe the Laws thereof, or any of their Liberties whatsoever, which are according to Law.

These are therefore to will and Command all Our loving Subjects of this Our Kingdom, That they receive no more of their seditious Pamphlets sent from Scotland, or any other place, concerning those affairs, which can have no other use or influence then to draw the hearts of Our loyall People to the like Rebellious courses. And that such of Our Subjects here, as have already received any of these Rebellious Pamphlets, do presently deliver them to the next Justice of Peace, that he may send them to one of Our Secretaries, as both they and the Justices of Peace will answer it at their uttermost perils.

And Our further will and pleasure is, That this Our Proclamation and Declaration be read in time of Divine Service in every Church within the Kingdome, That all Our People to the meanest, may see the noxious carriages of these men, and likewise the Justice and Mercy of all Our proceedings.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall the seven and twentieth day of February, in the fourteenth year of Our Reign of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland.

God save the King.

Imprinted at London by ROBERT BARKER, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majestie: And by the Assignes of JOHN BILL. 1638.